

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KINGSTON 0925

EXDIS

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, JM, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 0893

1. SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON TODAY FEB. 28 READ THE RIOT ACT TO ME OVER THE ARTICLE ON JAMAICA BY ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE WHICH APPEARED IN THE FEBRUARY 28 ISSUE OF NEWSWEEK. HIS WORDS WERE CAREFULLY CHOSEN AND COOLLY DELIVERED, BUT MADE CLEAR THE DEPTH OF CONCERN FELT BY HIS GOVERNMENT AT THE APPEARANCE OF THIS ARTICLE ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE AT WHICH HE HOPED TO IMPROVE THE US-JAMAICAN RELATIONSHIP. HE MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE REFUTATION OF THE MAIN THRUST OF DE BORCHGRAVE'S ALLEGATIONS, CHARACTERIZING THEM AS "SCURRILOUS, INACCURATE, AND "WRITTEN WITH MALICE AND VENOM". HE ACCUSED ME OF COMPLICITY SINCE THE DE BORCHGRAVES HAD STAYED AT THE RESIDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REQUESTED, I MET WITH FONMIN P.J. PATTERSON IN HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING (POLOFF COCHRAN ACCOMPANIED)

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TO DISCUSS DE BORCHGRAVE JAMAICA ARTICLE IN THE FEB 28 NEWSWEEK. BEGINNING WITH ONLY THE BRIEFEST EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, PATTERSON STATED THAT HE WAS EXPRESSING -- AS WILL AMBASSADOR RATTRAY IN WASHINGTON -- HIS GOVERNMENT'S "EXTREME CONCERN" OVER THE ARTICLE, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "MOST SCURRILOUS, MOST INACCURATE", AND "WRITTEN WITH MALICE AND VENOM". WHILE THE

INACCURACIES ARE TROUBLING, HE SAID, IT WAS THE "TONE AND TENOR" WHICH CAUSE THE DEPTH OF CONCERN FOR THEY REVEAL AN EFFORT BY AN "INFLUENTIAL JOURNALIST" TO POISON RELATIONS BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE UNITED STATES. JAMAICA IS, AT THIS MOMENT, VERY ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE LINKS WITH THE UNITED STATES. "WE HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT A CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAMAICA IS REASONABLE IN LIGHT OF ALL WE HAVE HEARD REGARDING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION". PATTERSON THEN POINTED OUT THAT WITH HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES DUE TO BEGIN TODAY, THE TIMING OF THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE IS MOST UNFORTUNATE.

3. THE FONMIN SAID THAT THE DE BORCHGRAVE ARTICLE GAINS AN ADDED DIMENSION FROM THE FACT THAT THE NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT WAS MY HOUSEGUEST DURING HIS STAY IN KINGSTON, THAT I HAD GIVEN A DINNER FOR HIM AND THAT HIS APPOINTMENTS HAD BEEN MADE THROUGH THE MISSION. IN FACT, SAID PATTERSON, THE INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GRANTED ONLY BECAUSE THE EMBASSY REQUESTED IT. THE FONMIN SAID THAT MY ASSOCIATION WITH DE BORCHGRAVE LED SOME TO CONCLUDE THAT THE ARTICLE "REVEALS MORE THAN THE VIEWS OF A PASSING JOURNALIST". WHILE DE BORCHGRAVE MAY HAVE WRITTEN IN HIS OWN WORDS, HE SAID, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL THINK I INFLUENCED DE BORCHGRAVE'S THINKING AND THAT I WOULD HAVE KNOWN WHAT DE BORCHGRAVE HAD WRITTEN.

4. I TOLD THE FONMIN THAT DE BORCHGRAVE WAS A DIS-
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TINGUISHED JOURNALIST WITH A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION WHO WROTE ABOUT THINGS AS HE SAW THEM AND THAT I DID NOT CONSIDER MYSELF OR THE USG IN ANY WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS VIEWS. I HAD PREVIOUSLY PUT UP WELL-KNOWN CORRESPONDENTS AT THE RESIDENCE, WHICH WAS CERTAINLY MY PEROGATIVE, THAT I HAD BEEN ASKED TO PUT UP MR. AND MRS. DE BORCHGRAVE BY MUTUAL FRIENDS, AND THAT I HAD BEEN HAPPY TO DO SO IN THIS CASE. WHAT HE WROTE WAS HIS BUSINESS, AND I WOULD NEVER PRESUME TO INFLUENCE HIS CONCLUSIONS. BUT WHAT I DID DO, I TOLD PATTERSON, WASTO URGE DE BORCHGRAVE TO SEE AS WIDE A VARIETY OF PERSONS AS POSSIBLE IN THE RULING PARTY AS WELL AS IN THE OPPOSITION, IN GOVERNMENT AND OUT, IN ORDER THAT HE SHOULD OBTAIN A BROAD VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN JAMAICA. A NUMBER OF THESE APPOINTMENTS HAD BEEN ARRANGED THROUGH THE EMBASSY (USIS). MOREOVER, I HAD INDEED REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BE ARRANGED SINCE MANLEY HAD PREVIOUSLY URGED ME TO ARRANGE FOR RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISTS TO SEE HIM. IN ADDITION, DE

BORCHGRAVE ARRANGED A NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS ON HIS OWN AND OBVIOUSLY HAD HIS OWN SOURCES IN LONDON, JAMAICA AND ELSEWHERE. I SAID THAT I COULD UNDERSTAND THE FONMIN'S CONCERN WITH THE TIMING.

5. PATTERSON EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT, IN THIS SITUATION, I OUGHT TO MAKE MY OWN VIEWS ON THE NEWSWEEK ACCOUNT KNOWN AND THUS SCOTCH STORIES THAT THE ARTICLE REFLECTS MY OWN VIEWS. THE FONMIN SAID THAT THE GOJ WILL BE

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KINGSTON 0925

EXDIS

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

SENDING A "PROTEST" TO NEWSWEEK AND URGED THAT I, TOO, WRITE TO THE EDITOR TO CORRECT WHATEVER INACCURACIES I HAD SPOTTED. I DECLINED, SAYING THAT I REPORTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT TO THE PRESIDENT, BUT WOULD REPORT HIS CONCERNS TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. I THEN TOLD THE FONMIN OF MY OWN SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT AND FRUSTRATION IN THAT MY OWN HOPES FOR PARTICIPATING IN BUILDING A MORE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE UNITED STATES HAD BEEN THWARTED BY THE ALLEGATIONS OF "DESTABILIZATION" AND THE LONG CAMPAIGN OF VILLIFICATION OF THE U.S. AS AN IMPERIALIST MONSTER, TOGETHER WITH THE ACCUSATIONS OF CIA INVOLVEMENT, CULMINATING IN THE VISIT OF PHILIP AGEE. I SAID THAT I FOUND THE GOJ'S SENSITIVITY OVER THE NEWSWEEK ARTICLE IN SHARP CONTRAST TO ITS LACK OF REACTION TO OUR CONCERNS EXPRESSED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE AGEE VISIT, AND REMINDED HIM THAT I HAD

EXPRESSED THEM TO HIM PERSONALLY IN HIS PREVIOUS
CAPACITY.

7. AFTER DENYING DIRECT GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN
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THE AGEE VISIT, PATTERSON SAID THAT A DECISION HAD
BEEN MADE AFTER THE VISIT TO LOWER THE VOLUME OF
RHETORIC AND THAT A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE NOT TO
USE THE CIA THEME IN THE CAMPAIGN AND THAT THIS HAD
BEEN ENFORCED ALTHOUGH IT REQUIRED "CONSIDERABLE
DISCIPLINE". I SAID THAT I HAD NOTICED THIS AND WAS
GRATEFUL OF IT.

8. AS THE MEETING DREW TO ITS CLOSE, THE FONMIN SAID
THAT HE HOPED THAT EVERY EFFORT COULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAMAICA. I
REPLIED THAT I THINK THAT THE DECISION TO REDUCE THE
LEVEL OF RHETORIC WAS A DISTINCT ADVANCE AND THAT I
FULLY SHARED HIS HOPE. I ADDED THAT HIS VISIT OFFERED
AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN THE BUILDING OF A
NEW RELATIONSHIP, AND I WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO
FURTHER IT.

9. COMMENT: PATTERSON'S REMARKS SHARPLY UNDERLINED
THE FACT THAT THE DE BORCHGRAVE ARTICLE HIT THE GOJ
WHERE IT HURTS. THE BASIC STORY LINE IS ACCURATE, THE
GOJ KNOWS IT, AND IS CONCERNED NOT ONLY ABOUT ITS
IMPACT ON WASHINGTON BUT ALSO ON THE DOMESTIC SCENE
HERE. THE MEETING ALSO ILLUSTRATED THE NAIVETE OF
SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS REGARDING THE SUPPOSED ABILITY OF
THE USG AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO MANIPULATE AS THEY
SEE FIT THE VIEWS AND WRITING OF AMERICAN REPORTERS.

10. IN ANY EVENT I AM DEEPLY DISTURBED
THAT THE JAMAICANS CAN REACT SO SHARPLY TO THIS ARTICLE
AND TO ITS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING CUBAN INTELLIGENCE
OPERATIONS WHILE REGISTERING NO CONCERN WHATSOEVER IN
PUBLIC (AND PROMOTING IN PRIVATE) THE ACTIVITIES OF
AGEE AND HIS ILK. A GOOD MEASURE OF THE SHARPNESS OF
THE REACTION CAN PROBABLY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE
EMBARRASSMENT OF THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT VIS-A-VIS ITS
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OWN FAR LEFT AT HAVING TO BACK-PEDAL BRISKLY AFTER A
STRONG PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT TO "EDUCATE THE MASSES"

ON THE VICIOUSNESS OF THE IMF AND THE WICKED
CAPITALIST IMPERIALISTS.

11. THE MODERATE WING OF THE GOJ DOES INDEED SEEK
IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE US -- IF ONLY BECAUSE OF
HOPES FOR A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE
IN JAMAICA'S DESPARATE ECONOMIC SITUATION.
THEIR CONCERN FOR THE IMPACT OF THE ARTICLE ON THE
PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS ARE THEREFORE
READ -- THE MORE SO GIVEN THEIR OWN DISCOMFIT AT THE
BASIC ACCURACY OF THE STORY. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES
THE ARTICLE PLACES PATTERSON AND THE GOJ ON THE
DEFENSIVE ON THE EVE OF THE FORMER'S VISIT TO
WASHINGTON -- PERHAPS A NOT UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT.
MANLEY IS IN CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE AND WILL TAKE
HELP ANY PLACE HE CAN GET IT, EVEN IF IT ENTAILS EATING
PRIVATE CROW -- A GOOD TIME FOR US TO DISCUSS THE MODALITIES.
BUT HOW FAR OR FOR HOW LONG HE IS WILLING OR ABLE TO CURB THE ANTI-
US LEFTISTS IN HIS PARTY OR TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TO THE
MODERATES IS UNKNOWN.
GERARD

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